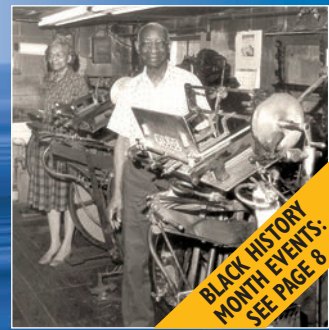




RockvilleReports

FEBRUARY 2017 • VOL. 63 #2



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The website WalletHub ranked Rockville the 14th most diverse city in America in 2016.

Mayor and Council to Hold Town Hall on Diversity, Feb. 9

The Mayor and Council is inviting Rockville residents to a conversation about how the community can become a more inclusive place to live and work.

A Thursday, Feb. 9 evening town hall aims to foster dialogue about how to improve the city's efforts to welcome and engage its diverse residents. Rockville is the 14th most diverse city in America and one-third of its residents were born outside the United States.

Human Rights Commission Chair Ebony Davis and former Rockville City Police Department chief Terry Treschuk will facilitate the town hall. Audience members

SAVE THE DATE

WHAT: Diversity Town Hall
WHEN: 7-9 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 9
WHERE: Carnation Room, Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive
Open to all in the Rockville community.

will be able to address the Mayor and Council. Rockville Channel 11 will tape the meeting for broadcast later.

The town hall will run from 7-9 p.m. in the Carnation Room of the Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive. To contact the Mayor and Council with comments and suggestions, see their contact information in the left-hand column on page 3. ✚



Recently appointed City Manager Rob DiSpirito chats with a member of the public at a Jan. 9 reception introducing him to the Rockville community.

Please Allow Me to Introduce Myself: Rob DiSpirito's Letter to Rockville

I couldn't be more excited to be in Rockville, an amazing, diverse community of strong neighborhoods, beautiful parks, high-performing schools and engaged citizens. My wife, Evangelina, and our kids and I truly look forward to making Rockville our new home.

My first objective is to go out and meet Rockville's employees and residents, listen intently, and learn all I can about this great community, reaching out and hearing what matters to our residents, civic groups, schools, businesses, and other partners. Our best ideas for improvement often come from front-line employees and our customers themselves.

I encourage you to introduce yourselves to me and to share your ideas for Rockville's future. I want to be accessible, and the Mayor and Council and I welcome your participation in your local government at all levels.

I will do my utmost to

help the Mayor and Council, city employees and residents achieve their vision of a thriving future for this great city. To do this, I will draw upon my 20 years' experience as city manager in two dynamic cities, and a total of 30 years' local government experience in four states: Florida, Ohio, Texas and Pennsylvania.

It's my honor to begin serving alongside a group of talented and caring city employees who hold Rockville's best interests at heart.

We are here for you.

Rob DiSpirito
Rob DiSpirito
RDiSpirito@rockvillemd.gov
727-638-4140



Look for Rockville 11's video on City Manager Rob DiSpirito, "Rockville's City Manager Talks with City Employees."



City Hall and Some City Facilities to Close for Presidents Day

City Hall will be closed and recycling and refuse will not be collected on Monday, Feb. 20 in observance of Presidents Day. Several city facilities will operate on their usual schedule.

Recycling and refuse collection will not be collected on Presidents Day. This is a change from past years. Collections will occur one day later throughout the week. For more information, call 240-314-8568 or visit www.rockvillemd.gov/recycling-refuse.

On Monday, Feb. 20:

- Glenview Mansion and the Rockville Senior Center will be closed. Croydon Creek Nature Center is always closed on Mondays.
- The F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre box office will be closed. Tickets are always available at www.rockvillemd.gov/theatre.
- Lincoln Park, Twinbrook and Thomas Farm community centers and the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center will be open regular hours.

Parking fees at city-owned meters will be suspended on Presidents Day.

For more information, call 240-314-5000 or visit www.rockvillemd.gov. ✚



DELEGATION FROM JIAXING VISITS ROCKVILLE...

The Rockville Mayor and Council welcomed a delegation of visitors from Rockville's Friendship City, Jiaxing, China, earlier this month. Rockville Sister City Corporation hosted the Jiaxing Municipal People's Government throughout visits to Rockville and D.C., where the delegation met with officials to learn about improving commerce- and cultural-related initiatives and toured Washington landmarks, including the Capitol, Jefferson Memorial and the Kennedy Center. The delegation presented the Mayor and Council with gifts and were formally recognized by the Mayor and Council at their Monday, Jan. 9 meeting. Rockville entered into a friendly relations agreement with Jiaxing in 2009 to foster a future Sister City relationship. Rockville Sister City Corporation celebrates its 60th anniversary with Pinneberg, Germany, this year and, in 2019, its 10th anniversary with Jiaxing, China. For additional information about Rockville's Sister City Corporation visit rockvillesistercities.org.

In This Issue...

- 3 Where to find the FY18 budget proposal.
- 4 Meet the city's new senior villages facilitator.
- 5 Community's request yields new crosswalk.
- 6 Dates for Hometown Holidays and other special events.
- 8 Celebrate Black History Month and Valentine's Day

MAYOR & COUNCIL
111 Maryland Ave.
Rockville, Maryland
20850-2364

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City's Financial Assistance Program Can Help in an Emergency

Need financial help? Facing eviction? Utilities about to shut off? Need help paying for prescription medication?

Emergency financial assistance is available to eligible Rockville residents facing a financial crisis, through the Rockville Emergency Assistance Program (REAP). REAP assistance may be available for funeral expenses, medical expenses and payment for other basic needs. Referrals for emergency food, clothing, financial/employment counseling and other assistance are also provided.

For more information on REAP, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/reap.

County to Provide Free Tax Preparation Appointments

Montgomery County is hosting free tax preparation sessions throughout tax season for families who earned less than \$54,000 in 2016.

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, which is run by the Montgomery County Community Action Agency, provides IRS-certified professionals and volunteers to help low- to moderate-income families maximize their tax refunds and credits, including the Earned Income Tax Credit.

Appointments are available from 11 a.m.-8 p.m. on Wednesdays at 1401 Rockville Pike, Suite 3302. The program is for Montgomery County residents only.

Schedule an appointment by calling 240-777-1123 (for TTY users, call MD Relay (711)) or online at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cashback.

To find more information, including a list of additional locations, visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/freetaxhelp or email VITA@montgomerycountymd.gov.

Find Career Help with Job Club

Need help finding a job? Rockville can help with a new program, launched in January, called Job Club.

Held from 1-3 p.m. on the second Sunday of each month, job seekers can drop in to Twinbrook Community Recreation Center at 12920 Twinbrook Parkway to receive guidance on job searches and applications using onsite computer services.

Rockville residents will learn the tools and strategies for successful job search; receive help with resume building and creating cover letters, and learn about interviewing skills, networking and marketing.

Job Club is a collaboration between the City of Rockville and Career Catchers, a nonprofit. For more information, contact Toni Alexander at 240-314-8319 or talAlexander@rockvillemd.gov.

Connect with us on Social Media.



Attention Dog Owners



Your dog did his duty,
please do yours.

Clean up after your dog.

CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY

Find more Black History Month events in Rockville on page 8.

Peerless Series Examines Educational Equality

'Emancipation to Integration' Series Kicks Off Feb. 24

Peerless Rockville celebrates the fight for educational equality in Rockville with a series this spring highlighting the efforts of the local African-American community to secure quality educational opportunities for their children.

February marks the 150th anniversary of a petition by 20 Rockville men who pledged to fund a school and teacher to educate black children. Learn about these brave men and early efforts in black education at an exhibit and reception at 7 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 24 at Rockville Memorial Library, 21 Maryland Ave., in Rockville Town Square.

The 1867 petition occurred three years after a new state constitution freed slaves throughout Maryland. Morgan State University professor David Taft Terry will discuss what emancipation actually meant for newly

freed slaves, including the changes, challenges, and opportunities of their daily life in "The Experience of Emancipation in Maryland."

The event will kick off the "Emancipation to Integration: 150 Years of Advancement in Educational Equality" series. The series will examine efforts at educational equality through the challenges of separate and unequal segregated schools and the experiences of desegregation following Brown v. Board of Education, including early 20th century efforts in black education, Williams Gibbs and Thurgood Marshall in Rockville, Carver High School and Junior College, and desegregation.

Visit www.peerlessrockville.org for details of additional series events throughout the spring. ✦

MLK Jr. Day Celebration Awardees and Honorees



CITY HONORED THE LEGACY OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR....on Jan. 16 with Rockville's 45th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration.

Rockville High School student Amina Mohamed (above, third from left)

received the Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Award, which is presented to a Rockville high school student for advancing King's goals and dreams.

Debbie Sahlin, founder of the Lollipop Kids Foundation, (right, center) was presented the F. Michael Taff Award, which is presented to an individual, business or organization from Rockville for improving the lives of people with disabilities.

Find Rockville 11's broadcast of the celebration at www.rockvillemd.gov/youtube.



REDI ambassadors visited VariQ in Rockville in 2016.

REDI Seeks Businesses to Appreciate

Rockville Economic Development, Inc.'s Rockville Business Appreciation Week 2017 is April 3-7.

Throughout the week teams of ambassadors comprising city leaders, city staff, and REDI representatives visit Rockville businesses to thank them for locating in the city and to introduce business owners to resources available to help their companies grow.

REDI ambassadors visited over 50 companies during Business Appreciation Week 2016.

Businesses located within the city limits that are interested in having REDI visit during the week should contact Michael Stiefvater, REDI Business Development Manager, at stiefvater@RockvilleREDI.org or 301-355-2202 or visit www.rockvilleredi.org/baw2017. ✦

Rockville Wins Yet More Accolades

Count Croydon Creek Nature Center and Glenview Mansion among award-winning programs in the City of Rockville. Both are 2017 winners on the "Bethesda Magazine" Best of Bethesda list.

Croydon Creek won in the **Best Kid's Activities** category. Glenview Mansion won **Best Date Night Activities** for its Wine and Improv nights at the Glenview Mansion Cottage.

Wedding Wire awarded Glenview Mansion's weddings service a **2017 Couples' Choice Award**, placing it among the top 5 percent of professionals listed on the website, and was also a pick for The Knot **Best of Weddings** list of the highest and most-rated vendors across all regions and planning categories.

For more on Glenview weddings, visit the mansion's website at www.rockvillemd.gov/glenview.



rockvillemd.gov/glenview. Visit Croydon Creek Nature Center's webpage at www.rockvillemd.gov/croydoncreek. ✦

Winter is coming! And snow!

Is your **Alert Rockville** account current?

Don't have an **Alert Rockville** account?

Get one at www.rockvillemd.gov/alerts.

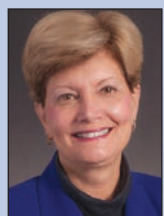
Receive public safety, traffic and severe weather notifications from the City of Rockville.



POPULAR ROCKVILLE 11 YOUTUBE VIDEOS FOR JANUARY: Kimberly Gordon Sings "The Impossible Dream (The Quest)"; 45th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration; Portrait of a Local Artist: Liliane Blom; Rockville's City Manager Talks with City Employees; Jiaxing, China Delegation Visits Rockville; Rockville Recreation and Parks Foundation Donation; Coffee With A Cop; New Speed Camera Coming In January.



Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton
240-314-8291
bnewton@rockvillemd.gov



Councilmember Beryl L. Feinberg
240-314-8293
bfeinberg@rockvillemd.gov



Councilmember Virginia D. Onley
240-314-8294
vonley@rockvillemd.gov



Councilmember Julie Palakovich Carr
240-314-8295
jpalakovichcarr@rockvillemd.gov



Councilmember Mark Pierzchala
240-314-8292
mpierzchala@rockvillemd.gov

Upcoming Meetings: Mondays, Feb. 6, 13 and 27 at 7 p.m.
Drop-in sessions are held monthly at 5:30 p.m. in the Mayor and Council office. No appointment necessary. Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton is joined by Councilmember Julie Palakovich Carr on Monday, Feb. 13.

Mayor and Council town hall on diversity from 7-9 p.m., Feb. 9 at Rockville Senior Center. See article on page 1.

Get Involved with the City

Stay informed of the business before city leaders and share your thoughts:

- **Follow the action in person:** Meetings are at 7 p.m. on most Mondays, at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., or follow from home on channel 11. Meetings are also available via live streaming, and on demand the day after the meeting, at www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11.
- **Stop by a drop-in session:** The mayor and one councilmember meet with community members one Monday each month from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Find the drop-in schedule at www.rockvillemd.gov/mayorcouncil.
- **Speak at Community Forum** (up to three minutes): Community Forum is held during each Mayor and Council meeting. Priority is given to speakers who have signed up in advance by calling 240-314-8280 by 4 p.m. on the day of the meeting, and to those who are speaking on an agenda item.

(continued in right column...)

City Manager to Present Proposed Budget to Mayor and Council

Budget Available Online Feb. 13; Offer Ideas Online and at Hearings

The community will get its first look at City Manager Rob DiSpirito's proposed Fiscal Year 2018 city budget this month.

The proposed budget, for the fiscal year that begins July 1, will be posted at www.rockvillemd.gov/budget by Monday, Feb. 13. DiSpirito is scheduled to present the proposed budget during the Mayor and Council meeting on Monday, Feb. 27. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave.

A Nov. 1 public hearing offered community members an early opportunity to provide budget ideas. At their Dec. 12 meeting, the Mayor and Council discussed priorities for the operating budget and Capital Improvements Program for FY 2018, including results of the 15-question budget survey that the mayor and each councilmember completed. Find video of the hearing and priorities discussion by searching "FY18 Budget" at www.rockvillemd.gov/youtube.

There is still time for community members to share their

OFFER IDEAS

- At www.rockvillemd.gov/budget.
- At public hearings at the March 6 and April 3 Mayor and Council meetings.

WATCH IT

The Feb. 27 proposed budget presentation and the public hearings will be:

- Carried live on channel 11 on county cable systems.
- Live streaming at www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11
- Available a day after each meeting at www.rockvillemd.gov/videoondemand.

budget ideas. Find budget information and a link to submit ideas at www.rockvillemd.gov/budget. The first of two public hearings on the proposed budget is scheduled for Monday, March 6.

Rockville's adopted operating budget for the current fiscal year totals \$126.3 million. The Mayor and Council are scheduled to adopt the FY 2018 budget in May.

For more information, call the Finance Department at 240-314-8400. ✚

Students Have a Chance to be Mayor for a Day in May

Mayor Newton to Visit Rockville Fourth Graders

Rockville fourth graders will once again have a chance at serving as the city's Mayor for a Day this spring by taking part in the statewide "If I Were Mayor" essay contest.

The theme of this year's contest, organized by the Maryland Municipal League (MML) and the Maryland Mayors' Association (MMA), is "Inclusion." Students are asked to write an essay, no longer than 275 words, that would describe how, if they were mayor, they

would design a community center that anyone in their town could use and make sure no one was left out of the process.

One winning essay will be selected from each of MML's 11 regional districts throughout the state. Winners, their parents, and their teachers will be recognized during an awards ceremony in Annapolis. Essays must be received by Friday, March 31.

The Mayor and Council *continued on pg. 7...*

Mayor and Council Approve Floodplain Ordinance Changes

City is Conducting Outreach and Offers Online Resources for Property Owners

Changes to the city's floodplain ordinance, unanimously adopted by the Mayor and Council on Jan. 9, will create a more rigorous process for approving construction in the floodplain and remove previously allowed exemptions to what can be built there.

The floodplain is land near a stream that could be inundated by a so-called 100-year flood – a

flood that has a 1 percent chance of occurring in any given year. The city's ordinance, which bans new development in the floodplain, was previously updated in 1992. Revisions to federal and state regulations require the city ordinance changes, which take effect July 1.

The changes include a new Federal Emergency Management *continued on pg. 7...*

Mayor Elected Chairman of the Transportation Planning Board

Newton is in Her Fourth Term on the Regional Transportation Planning Panel

Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton was unanimously elected chairman of the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) for 2017.

The TPB prepares plans and programs that the federal government must approve in order for federal transportation funds to flow to the region. It includes local governments, state transportation agencies, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority and members of the Maryland and Virginia legislatures.

"I am honored and humbled to serve as chairman of the TPB in 2017," Newton said. "As a regional, long-range planning board, the TPB has a unique responsibility for thinking across jurisdictional boundaries and decades into the future. I look forward to working closely with my colleagues from across the metro area to address our region's long-term transportation needs."

Newton, who is completing her fourth term on the TPB, served as the board's vice chairman this year. She began a one-year term as the chairman in January.

She was first elected mayor in 2013, after two terms as a councilmember, and was re-elected mayor in 2015 to the first four-year term in Rockville history.

Newton is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. She is a member at large of the Maryland Municipal League (MML) Board of Directors and served as president of MML's Montgomery County chapter from November 2012 through May 2015. She is in her sixth term on the MML Legislative Committee, of which she was appointed committee chairman in June 2015.

Learn more about the TPB at www.mwco.org/transportation/tpb/. ✚

(continued from left column...)

- **Send an email** to mayorandcouncil@rockvillemd.gov.
- **Testify at a hearing** or in writing to cityclerk@rockvillemd.gov or by mail to the City Clerk's Office, Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850.
- **Volunteer to be on a board or commission** at www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions. (Learn more below.) Find other ways to give your time and talents to your community at www.rockvillemd.gov/volunteer.

Boards and Commissions

Meetings are held at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., unless otherwise noted. Please check www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions for the latest on cancellations, rescheduling and contact information.

- **Feb. 1 Board of Supervisors of Elections** 6:30 p.m.
- **Feb. 1 Rockville Bicycle Advisory Committee** 7 p.m.
- **Feb. 4 Board of Appeals** 9 a.m.*
- **Feb. 7 Asian Pacific American Task Force** 7:30 p.m.
- **Feb. 8 Cultural Arts Commission** 7 p.m.
- **Feb. 8, 22 Planning Commission** 7 p.m.*
- **Feb. 14 Human Services Advisory Commission** 6:30 p.m.
- **Feb. 15 Rockville Sister City Corporation Board** 7 p.m.
- **Feb. 16 Senior Citizens Commission** 1 p.m.
- **Feb. 16 Historic District Commission** 7:30 p.m.
- **Feb. 21 Rockville Seniors, Inc.** 1 p.m.
- **Feb. 22 Human Rights Commission** 7:30 p.m.
- **Feb. 22 Rockville Housing Enterprises** 6:30 p.m.

*Televised on Rockville 11.

Anyone interested in serving on a board or commission may write to the Mayor and Council at 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850, call 240-314-8280 or fill out and submit an expression of interest form at www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions.

Vacancies

The Mayor and Council are seeking applicants for the following boards and commissions:

- Compensation Commission (2)
- Cultural Arts Commission (1)
- Environment Commission (2)
- Ethics Commission (1)
- Financial Advisory Board (2)
- Historic District Comm. (1 alt.)
- Human Rights Commission (4)
- Human Services Advisory Comm. (1 caregiver)
- Landlord Tenant Affairs Comm. (1 rep.; 1 alt.)
- Planning Commission (3)
- Senior Citizens Comm. (3)
- Sign Review Board (1 alt.)

For more, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions or call 240-314-8280.



STAY INFORMED: The Mayor and Council meeting schedule and agendas can be found at www.rockvillemd.gov/mayorcouncil. Staff reports with background information are included with the agendas, which are posted several days before each meeting. Sign up at www.rockvillemd.gov/notifyme to receive an email or text message when a new agenda is posted.



Water-saving Toilets Available for Low-income Homeowners

City staff will coordinate removal of up to two older, inefficient toilets per eligible home and replace them with new water-saving toilets through the city's water conservation program. Older toilets use between 3.5 and 7 gallons per flush (gpf), while new water saving toilets use 1.28 gpf and could reduce water bills depending on use.

Applicants must own their home in Rockville and meet installation criteria, as well as the family-size and income guidelines below. Toilets that use 1.6 gpf are not eligible for replacement. Note that the income guidelines have recently been revised.

For more information, and to apply, call the Community Services Division at 240-314-8310. Seniors (60 and older) should call the Senior Services Division at 240-314-8810.

Household Size	Maximum Gross Income
1	\$45,900
2	\$52,400
3	\$59,000
4	\$65,500
5-7	\$70,800
8	\$71,700

Garden Plots Available to Rent

Check your thumb. Is it green? Perhaps you have a knack for gardening, but not the space, and are ready to move onto something a little more challenging than your window box.

The City of Rockville has 159 garden plots, measuring 20-by-25 feet, available for rent at Vwoottons Mill Park (on Hurley Avenue) where you can test your gardening chops. The cost is \$55 for Rockville residents, \$80 for non-residents. The garden plot program opens Feb. 1 and the season runs from April 1-Nov. 12.

The city provides six water spigots throughout the garden area; gardeners are responsible for fencing, weed barriers, hoses, tools and other gardening supplies.

Call Rockville Civic Center's main office number, 240-314-8660, or visit www.rockvillemd.gov/gardenplots for more information.

We Need Your Support!



Rockville Recreation and Parks Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization established to:

- Improve recreational activities, programs, parks and facilities
- Support the Rockville Youth Recreation Fund
- Assist with fundraising, the acquisition and maintenance of new parks and open space
- Purchase equipment and other amenities for the City's parks and facilities.



Please send your tax deductible gift to:
200-B Monroe Street
Rockville, MD 20850
www.rpf.org • 240-314-8867

It Takes a Village (Facilitator)

The Senior Center has hired a former community liaison to fill a new city position to advocate for a growing movement that will allow seniors to live in their own homes longer.

Trish Evans, the city's first senior villages facilitator for Rockville's Senior Services Division, assumed her new role in mid-December. She will investigate ways to grow the villages movement in the city. The need for a coordinator to liaison with Rockville's emerging villages movement was identified in the city's 2016 Senior Citizen Needs Assessment and Gap Analysis. The Mayor and Council approved the post after hearing support from the Villages Advisory Committee and Rockville Senior Citizens Commission.

Villages are neighbor support networks that assist seniors who wish to remain in their homes, a concept known as "aging in place." Seniors get support from their neighborhood with help on yard chores, rides to doctor's appointments, tutoring and more, villages offer multigenerational opportunities to give back.

"Everyone benefits from these networks and every-



Trish Evans, senior villages facilitator.

one can be involved," Evans said. "There are no age requirements."

Evans, who had a successful career as a film and video producer before transitioning into senior health care, spent the last 10 years as community liaison for Collingswood and Potomac Valley nursing centers. She has experience in health care transitions, marketing and outreach, and creating and developing community relationships.

The Villages Program is housed in the Rockville Senior Services Division at the Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive.

Two meet-and-greet sessions at the Senior Center are planned: 10 a.m., Tuesday, Feb. 14 and 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 22.

To contact Evans, email her at tevans@rockvillemd.gov or call 240-314-8807. ✚



Melissa and Tony Downs, and daughters Madelyn and Alyson, pictured at "Dinosaur Park" – also known as Lone Oak Park, successfully met their goal of visiting each of the City of Rockville's 65 parks during 2016.

One Year, 65 Rockville Parks

When it comes to love for Rockville's parks and open spaces, it's hard to top the Downs family.

Melissa and Tony Downs, and daughters Madelyn and Alyson, made it their mission in 2016 to visit each one of the city's 65 parks.

To help track their adventures, Melissa Downs developed a spreadsheet of all of the parks and amenities.

When the family visited, she took a family photo by each Park sign and posted it to her Facebook page, where

her friends and family were following their journey.

Madelyn and Alyson had a different way of keeping track, naming each park after the theme of the playground equipment. For example, "Dinosaur Park" was Lone Oak Park, and the King Farm Park was "Hippo Park."

The family was recently invited to join the Rockville Recreation and Parks department for its annual New Year's breakfast, where they were recognized for their yearlong adventure. ✚



The 2016 class of the Rockville Citizens Police Academy.

Go Behind the Badge with the Citizens Police Academy

10-Week Course Includes Firearms Training Simulations

Community members once again this spring have the opportunity to learn what it takes to be a police officer through the Rockville Citizens Police Academy.

Participants 18 and older will learn about all aspects of the police department, receive hands-on training and earn a graduation certificate upon course completion. The Rockville City Police Department is accepting applications for the free, 10-week course, which will be held in March, April and May at a time and place to be determined. Topics

will include:

- Crime scene processing.
- Firearms training simulations.
- K-9 unit demonstrations.
- Traffic law.
- Detectives and investigations.
- Bomb unit.

For more information and registration, email Cpl. Ken Matney at kmatney@rockvillemd.gov.

For more information about the Rockville City Police Department and its community policing mission, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/police. ✚

Open Houses Set for Bus Rapid Transit Options

The Maryland Department of Transportation has partnered with the Montgomery County Department of Transportation to hold two public open houses on alternatives for a bus rapid transportation system being studied for MD Route 355.

Bus rapid transit, or BRT, is a transit system that uses buses primarily in dedicated lanes with fewer stops. Montgomery County and the state are currently studying BRT lines along U.S. 29, MD 355 and MD 586 (Veirs Mill Road). The state will decide on a set of alternatives for MD 355 that it will evaluate following the open houses.

Open house attendees will get to meet the project team, offer input, and hear about BRT alternatives, the results of a preliminary analysis, station design concepts, and what comes next.

Project information can be found at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/brt. ✚

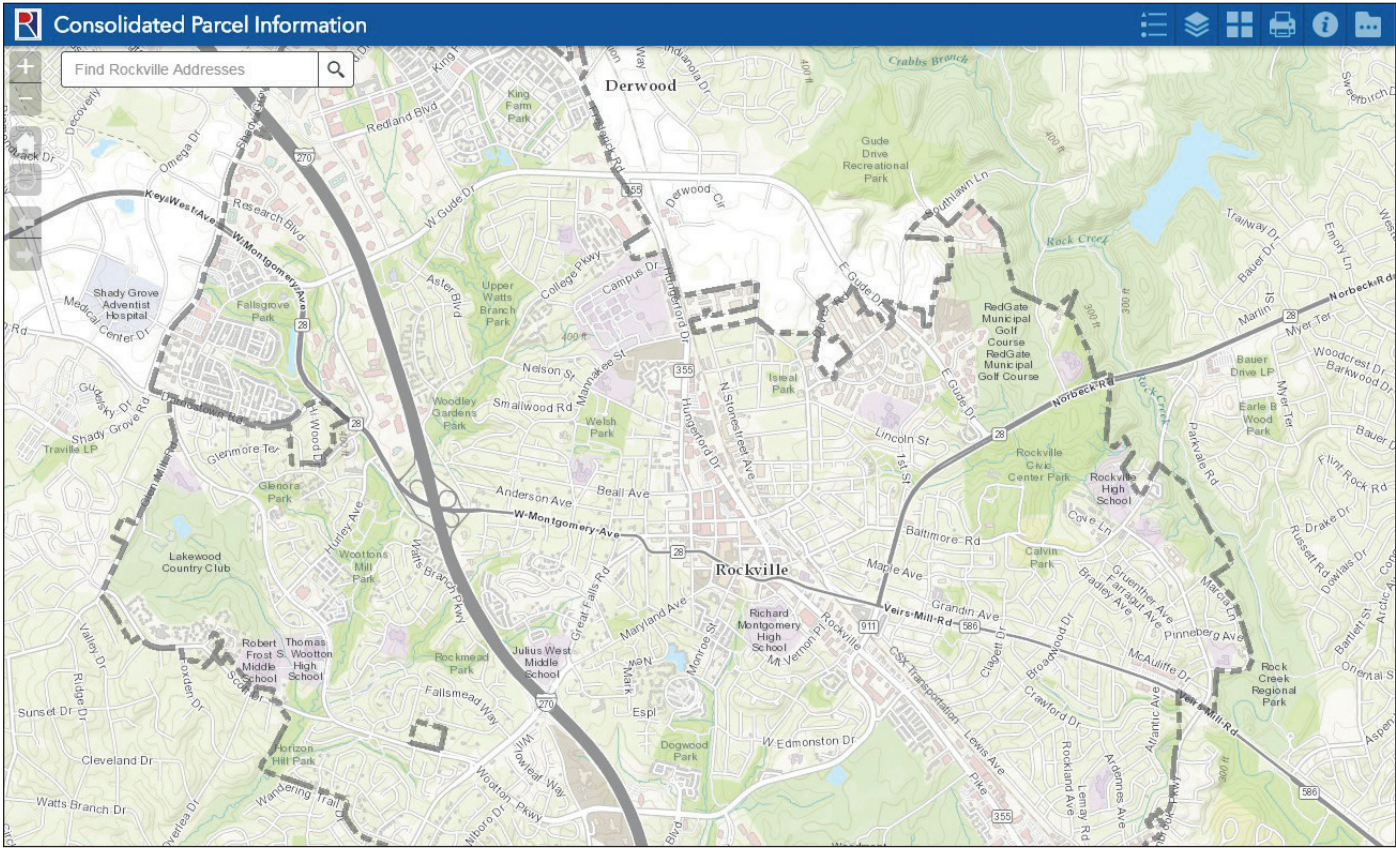
OPEN HOUSES
WILL BE HELD ON:

- **6:30-8:30 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 7**
in the Bioscience Education Building of Montgomery College (Germantown Campus), 20200 Observation Drive, Germantown, MD 20876. **The snow date is Feb. 14.**
- **6:30-8:30 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 8**
in the cafeteria of the Montgomery County Executive Office Building, 101 Monroe St., Rockville, MD 20850. **The snow date is Feb. 13.**

FEBRUARY 2017

888

WHAT ELSE IS BEING CELEBRATED FOR FEBRUARY? In addition to Black History Month, kicked off by proclamation Jan. 23 (see the article on page 8), February is also American Heart Month and National Children's Dental Health Month. Feb. 2 is National Groundhog Day (please, no more winter!); Feb. 9 is National Toothache Day (ugh); Feb. 20 is National Cherry Pie Day (yum!); and Feb. 23 is National Chili Day (yum, again!). And don't forget Feb. 14 — Valentine's Day (see page 8 for Rockville events).



New GIS Web Map Speeds Data Discovery

A new geographic information system map on the city’s website incorporates property data with City of Rockville services and administrative data to provide one stop for a variety of information.

The Consolidated Parcel Information map is a convenient way to discover information for a site without having to consult multiple maps. It allows users to click on a parcel and access information associated with the

particular location in a multi-page pop-up format. Information available includes:

- Whether a parcel is inside or outside the city limits.
- The city code enforcement area and inspector.
- The locations and names of city historic districts.
- Land use areas as adopted in the city’s 2002 Comprehensive Master Plan.
- Residential areas represented by neighborhood

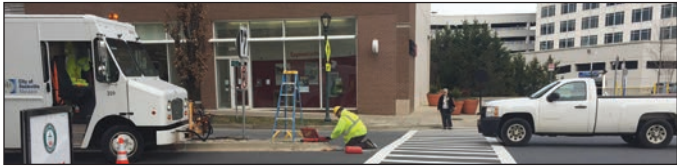
associations.

- Planning policy areas used by the city for citywide and neighborhood planning purposes.
- Property parcel data from the State of Maryland Department of Planning and State Department of Assessments and Taxation.
- Recycling and refuse collection days for specific addresses.
- Election districts and polling places for City of Rockville elections.

- Water service provider.
- Zoning districts and zoning overlay designations.

The Parcel Information map and other maps will continue to be available as a single-topic maps. Note that the order of the pop-up pages on the Consolidated Parcel Information map cannot be controlled and not all data categories will exist at all locations.

Find the new map among the featured maps at <http://maps.rockvillemd.gov>.



Community Concerns Lead to New Crosswalk

A new crosswalk is improving pedestrian safety at an increasingly busy corner of Rockville Town Center.

A new temporary crosswalk and signage was installed on Jan. 19 on East Middle Lane at Helen Heneghan Way. Winter weather made it impossible to install the permanent thermoplastic striping and to make modifications to the ramp in order to make the crosswalk handicap accessible. The new crosswalk is a stop-gap until the spring when the city’s contractor will replace the temporary striping with a permanent crosswalk with Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant ramps on the west side of the intersection.

The city’s Department of

Public Works developed the pedestrian safety solution in response to a community request received by the Mayor and Council. Community members were concerned about pedestrians crossing a section of East Middle Lane without a crosswalk, at Helen Heneghan Way near Panera Bread.

Public Works Director Craig Simoneau said that while the city is hesitant about putting crosswalks where there is no stop sign or traffic signal “several field investigations showed that a high number of pedestrians were crossing at this location, so we started exploring the option of adding a new crosswalk [last] summer.”

Stonestreet Implementation Plan to Come to Mayor and Council in Early February

The Mayor and Council will hear from Rockville’s long-range planners, Monday, Feb. 6 about creating a focused and cohesive implementation plan for the Stonestreet Avenue corridor that would identify appropriate uses for the area and opportunities for redevelopment and infrastructure improvements.

Preparation of the Stonestreet Corridor Implementation Plan, if authorized, would build on previous plans and studies of the area, about 130 acres along the east and west sides of North and South Stonestreet avenues, from north of the Westmore community to Washington Metropolitan

Area Transit Authority property to the south. The new plan would include a community engagement process to review previous plan recommendations and incorporate any changes not covered by those past studies.

Interest in the corridor has gained momentum due to an improved economy and growth and expansion of Rockville’s Town Center.

Stonestreet corridor recommendations have been included in several approved master plans and were studied in 2004-2006, which guided changes to the area’s zoning in 2009 from light industrial to mixed-use business.

Rockville Seeks Environmentalists to Be Recognized During Earth Month

Deadline for Nominations for Environmental Excellence Awards is Feb. 23

The City of Rockville’s Environmental Excellence Awards recognize individuals and organizations that contribute to Rockville’s environmental health and sustainability.

Nominations are being accepted in the following categories through 5 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 23 for awards to be presented during Earth Month in April:

- Outstanding Individual Environmental Stewardship.
- Outstanding Leadership in Environmental Practices.
- Outstanding Achievement in Green Building Technology/Design.
- Outstanding Environmental Education and Academic Achievement.

Eligible individuals must live, work, or study within the city. Eligible organizations must have an office in Rockville or must be able to demonstrate significant operations within the city limits. Building projects considered as part of a nomination must be within the city.

The awards are presented to an individual or organization by the Mayor and Council. Nominations and supplemental materials are received by the Environment Commission, which review the materials and recommend awards to the Mayor and Council.

For additional information about the award categories and guidelines, application forms and eligibility, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/environment/awards, email environment@rockvillemd.gov, or call 240-314-8870.

Save with Energy-Saving Products and Energy Rebates

Tax-Free Presidents Day Weekend Returns

Homeowners thinking about upgrading an appliance, replacing a water heater, or even changing a light bulb, can do so tax free on Presidents Day weekend.

On Feb. 18-20, purchases of the following energy-efficient Energy Star products are free from Maryland’s 6 percent sales tax:

- Air conditioners.
- Clothes washers and dryers.
- Furnaces.
- Heat pumps.
- Boilers.
- Solar water heaters (tax exempt at all times).
- Standard-size refrigerators.
- Dehumidifiers.
- Programmable thermostats.
- Compact fluorescent and light-emitting diode (LED) light bulbs.

Learn more about Energy Star products at www.energystar.gov.

Learn more about the tax-free weekend by visiting www.marylandtaxes.com and searching “Shop Maryland Energy.”

In addition, Pepco offers customers rebates on Energy Star appliances. Learn more at <http://homeenergysavings.pepco.com/appliance-rebate-program>.

Washington Gas also offers residential and commercial rebates, including, for residential customers, rebates on furnaces, tankless and standard water heaters, and programmable and Wi-Fi-enabled thermostats. Learn more at <http://washingtongasliving.com/rebates>.

Energy assistance may be available for customers having trouble paying their gas bill. Call 703-750-1000. Customers can also spread the cost of winter heating across the year. Visit www.washgas.com/pages/PaymentArrangements or call 703-750-7944. Customers also may purchase natural gas from any licensed energy supply company they choose. For more information, visit www.washingtongas.com and select “My Account,” then “Customer Choice.”

Find more energy-saving tips at www.washingtongas.com/safety-education/education/winter-preparedness.

READ ALL ABOUT IT, IN MANY LANGUAGES: By now you might know that RockvilleReports.com includes all the news of the print edition, with embedded video content, links to the city’s website and regular updates throughout the month. But did you know that the online articles can easily be translated into over 70 languages? Find the Google Translate “Select Language” bar in the upper right corner of each webpage and read in the language of choice for you, your family and your neighbors.



Revved Up for Rockville 11's Car Show Special

Put down the remote and rev up your engine as Rockville 11 reviews the sweet rides with "The 55th Annual Rockville Antique and Classic Car Show Special."

Join car enthusiast Hagop Balekjian on a tour through automotive paradise as he talks to car lovers young and old about what makes this City of Rockville tradition special.

Find the special by searching "55th Car Show Special" at www.rockvillemd.gov/youtube, or tune in throughout February to channel 11 on county cable systems. Check the programming schedule at www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11 for broadcast times.

The 2017 Rockville Antique and Classic Car Show is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 14 at Rockville Civic Center Park. Learn more at www.rockvillemd.gov/carshow.

K-12 Student Artists: Glenview's Gallery Wants You

Are you a student artist? How'd you like to see your work featured in the Glenview Mansion Art Gallery? Now's your chance.

Rockville's Annual Student Art Show will be accepting work from students in grades K-12 who live or attend school within Rockville's city limits. Each student may submit one 2-D or 3-D piece (2-D pieces must have wire on the back so they can be hung; 3-D pieces must be able to stand on their own).

Artwork is judged for ribbon awards for grades 4-12. The exhibit will be on view in the Glenview Mansion Art Gallery from Sunday, Feb. 19 through Wednesday, March 22. Registration forms will be available at delivery or can be found at www.rockvillemd.gov/arts.

The opening reception is 1:30-3:30 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 12.

Email Julie at jfarrell@rockvillemd.gov or call her at 240-314-8682 with any questions.



Yarn Bombs Away!

The crocheted creations of a stealth knitting group will again adorn the railing of the second floor porch fronting Glenview Mansion, signaling that knitted graffiti is back.

Last year, the knitters decorated trees in front of F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre with cozies and little woodland animals. This year, these yarn bombs come just in time for the student art show (opens Feb. 19) and Valentine's Day (Feb. 14). Yarn bombing, the practice of covering objects in public places with colorful knitted or crocheted designs, has gained popularity worldwide as an expression of creative art.

Gallery hours are 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, and 9 a.m.-9 p.m., Thursday. The facility is closed on weekends and official holidays.

Save the Date for the City's 2017 Special Events

Rockville hosts family-friendly special events throughout the year. Mark your calendar for the following free events in the months ahead:

ROCKVILLE SCIENCE DAY (Free) • Sunday, April 23; noon-5 p.m.; Montgomery College/Rockville, 51 Mannakee St.

The 28th annual Rockville Science Day offers a chance to experience science hands-on with exhibits featuring animals, astronomy, biology, chemistry, the environment, robotics and rockets. Learn more and register to exhibit at <http://rockvillesciencecenter.org/rockville-science-day/>.

ROCKVILLE FARMERS MARKET • Saturdays, May 13-Nov. 18; 9 a.m.-1 p.m.; Route 28 (E. Jefferson St.) and Monroe St., Rockville Town Center

Find seasonal fruits and vegetables, bedding plants, cut flowers, preserves, honey, herbs, baked goods, and more from regional growers and producers. Learn more at www.rockvillemd.gov/farmers.

PUBLIC WORKS EQUIPMENT SHOW (Free) • Thursday, May 25; 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Rockville Swim and Fitness Center, 355 Martins Lane

Kids – and kids at heart – can climb into the operator's seat of some of the big trucks used by the city's Department of Public Works. The show includes balloons, popcorn, coloring books and other giveaways.

HOMETOWN HOLIDAYS MUSIC FEST (Free) • Saturday-Monday, May 27-29; Rockville Town Center

This popular music festival includes four stages of entertainment, the Taste of Rockville, amusements for kids and the Memorial Day ceremony and parade. Learn more in the

article on this page and at www.rockvillemd.gov/hometownholidays.

SUDS AND SOLES 5K • Saturday, June 24; Rockville Town Center

Run a 5K course through



Hometown Holidays is the Memorial Day Weekend Music Destination

Four Stages of Music, Local Food Favorites and Kids Fun Return May 27-28

The Hometown Holidays Music Fest returns to Town Center for its 29th year this Memorial Day weekend, offering an opportunity to connect with friends, create memories and celebrate the start of summer.

The Rockville tradition will feature more than 25 local, regional and national performing artists and the best local food around on Saturday, May 27 and Sunday, May 28.

The weekend will once again feature favorite food from local restaurants at the Taste of Rockville, as well as kids amusements, the return of "the beach" sand pile and the 73rd Annual Memorial Day Ceremony and Parade on Monday, May 29.

The Hometown Holidays Music Fest is a destination for music lov-

ers, featuring performances on four stages across six city blocks. The main Beach Stage will once again have a Maryland flavor, with roots reggae from Baltimore's Jah Works on Saturday and the "phat blues music" of Baltimore's Kelly Bell Band joined by the original "Bad Boys of Bethesda," The Nighthawks, on Sunday. The full lineup will be announced in late February at www.rockvillemd.gov/hometownholidays. Visit "City of Rockville Hometown Holidays" on Facebook, where a new musical act will be profiled each week on #MusicMonday.

The festival is just a five-minute walk from the Rockville Metro station. Festival-goers who drive or bike can find parking options at www.rockvilleparking.com. +

Town Center, attend a post-race party, sample great beverages and receive a commemorative mug. Learn more at www.rockvillemd.gov/sudsandsoles.

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION (Free) • Tuesday, July 4; 7-10 p.m.; Mattie J.T. Stepanek Park, 1800 Piccard Dr.

Celebrate Independence Day with friends and neighbors, music, food and a spectacular fireworks display. Learn more at www.rockvillemd.gov/independenceday.

MOVIES IN THE PARKS (Free) • Wednesdays, Aug. 2-23; Locations and movies TBA in June.

Bring chairs, blankets, food and beverages and enjoy four different movies at four different neighborhood parks throughout the city. Learn more at www.rockvillemd.gov/moviesintheparks.

ROCKTOBIERFEST (Free) • Saturday, Oct. 7; Rockville Town Center

This inaugural event will include two stages of entertainment, German music, dancing and food, craft vendors, kids activities and beverages for sale by local breweries.

ROCKVILLE ANTIQUE AND CLASSIC CAR SHOW (Free) • Saturday, Oct. 14 (Rain Date: Saturday, Oct. 21); 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m.; Rockville Civic Center Park, 603 Edmonston Dr.

More than 500 vehicles are on display at this city tradition, which offers a car-related flea market, car sales area, music and more. Learn more at www.rockvillemd.gov/carshow and in the article on this page. +

Hellen Keller, Opera and Improv, This Month at the F. Scott Theater

Glimpse into the relationship between a young Hellen Keller and her teacher and friend, Annie Sullivan, as Rockville Little Theater presents "The Miracle Worker," at 8 p.m., Feb. 3, 4, 10 and 11, and at 2 p.m. on Feb. 5 and 12, at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. Tickets are \$22 for adults, \$20 for students and seniors 62 and older.

Wine and Improv is back at the Glenview Mansion cottage on Thursday, Feb. 16. Theater professional

Stephanie Phelan leads an improv workshop at 7 p.m. No experience necessary. Tickets are \$35 for individuals, \$60 for couples, and include a glass of wine, but you must be 21 or older and bring an ID. Don't miss this "Bethesda Magazine" pick for "Best Date Night Activities." (See article on page 2.)

"The Tamburitans Live!" fill the theater with an Eastern European flair, at 2 and 8 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 19. Tickets are \$35-38 for adults,

\$30-33 for seniors.

The Victorian Lyric Opera Company presents Jaques Offenbach's "La Perichole" in English, at 8 p.m., Feb. 23-25 and March 3-4, and at 2 p.m., Feb. 26 and March 5. Tickets are \$28 for adults, \$24 for seniors, and \$20 for students.

Tickets go on sale this month for Rockville Civic Ballet productions of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and "Macbeth" in March. Performances are 7:30 p.m., Saturday, March 18, and 2

p.m., Sunday, March 19, respectively. Tickets are \$17 for adults, \$13 for children (12 and under), and \$13 for seniors 60 and older. Group rates are \$16.50 for seven or more adult tickets and \$12.50 for 10 or more children or senior tickets.

Buy tickets at www.rockvillemd.gov/theatretix. The box office is open 2-7 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday and two hours prior to every ticketed performance. Call 240-314-8690. +



PAPER, NO PLASTIC: The city is no longer accepting materials for recycling that are in plastic bags or that contain plastic bags. This includes plastic bags grouped into one bag and placed in the cart, as well as bags used to bundle other materials for recycling. The change was made due to costly damage that the bags are causing to the processing and sorting equipment. Look for grocery and retail stores with plastic bag collection bins near their entrances. Find a drop-off location that accepts bags for recycling at: m.montgomerycountymd.gov/sws/how/plastic-bags.html.

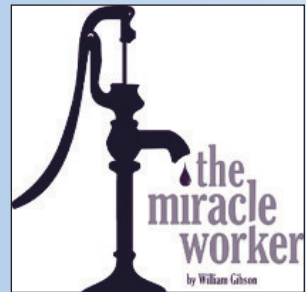
FACILITIES LEGEND:

- CC** Croydon Creek Nature Ctr., 852 Avery Rd., 240-314-8770.
GM Glenview Mansion, 603 Edmonston Dr., 240-314-8660.
FSF F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre, 603 Edmonston Dr., 240-314-8690.
LP Lincoln Park Community Ctr., 357 Frederick Ave., 240-314-8780.
CH Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., 240-314-5000.
SR Rockville Senior Ctr., 1150 Carnation Dr., 240-314-8800.
SFC Rockville Swim and Fitness Ctr., 355 Martins Lane, 240-314-8750.
TF Thomas Farm Community Ctr., 700 Falls Grove Dr., 240-314-8840.
TC Twinbrook Comm. Rec. Ctr., 12920 Twinbrook Pkwy., 240-314-8830.



Rockville offers a variety of classes and programs each season. Find the current recreation and camps guide at www.rockvillemd.gov/guide and sign up for courses by entering the relevant course number through Rock Enroll (rockenroll.rockvillemd.gov).

1 Garden plot program reservations open. See article on page 4.



3,4,5,10,11,12 Rockville Little Theater presents "The Miracle Worker" See article on page 6. Fridays and Saturdays 3, 4, 10 and 11 at 8 p.m.; Sundays 5 and 12 at 2 p.m. **GM**

2 Little Acorns: Mammals Explore nature outdoors with your little ones through a va-

riety of play-based activities. Register for course #57942. 10-11 a.m. **CC**

2,9,16,23 PB&J Begins Play, books and jam. Read, create and dance. Register for #57972. 10-11 a.m. **LP**

4,18 Winter Yoga Series Namaste! Gentle morning yoga. Free. 9-10 a.m. **LP**

5 Animal Habitats Badge (Junior Girl Scouts) Complete the necessary requirements to earn a badge. Contact Melinda Norton to register, 240-314-8771. 2-4 p.m. **CC**

6 Little Acorns: Snow Explore nature outdoors with your little ones through a variety of play-based activities. Register for course #57943. 10-11 a.m. **CC**

6-4/10 Income Tax Assistance FREE Mondays through April 10. Call 240-777-2577 for an appointment. **SR**

7 Tiny Hoopers Begins Learn basketball basics. Register for #57970. 5:30-6:15 p.m. **LP**

9 Mayor and Council: Town Hall on Diversity See article on page 1. 7-9 p.m.

10 Annual Heart-to-Heart Family Valentine's Dance Families and friends spend time together making Valentine crafts and dancing. \$3 per person at the door. 7-9 p.m. **TC**

10 Valentine's Day Chocolate Extravaganza Celebrate Valentine's Day with your family, chocolate, and a showing of "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory." \$4 at the door. 7-9:30 p.m. **TF**

10 Critters and Coffee. Wildlife discussion and tour with staff at the Croydon Creek

Nature Center Seniors only. Register for #57767. 10:15-11:15 a.m. **CC**

12 Glenview Mansion Art Gallery Annual Student Art Show artwork delivery See article on page 6. 1:30-3:30 p.m. **GM**



12 For the Love of Sports — Adult and Child An afternoon of fun sports and games in the gym. Register for #57983. 2-4 p.m. **LP**

13 Black History Month: Tuskegee Airmen See article on page 8. 10:15-11:15 a.m. at the Senior Center (#57698); 1-2 p.m. at Lincoln Park Community Center (#57926). **SR LP**

14 Tiny Tot Valentine's Day Party Make a Valentine, play games and visit with friends. Wear red. \$2 for kids; adults need membership or day pass. Register for #58054 for adults, #58055 for children. 10 a.m.-noon **TC**

14 Senior Valentine's Party Seniors only. Register for #58954. 1-2:30 p.m. **SR**

14,22 Meet and Greet the New Villages Facilitator Seniors only. 10 a.m., Feb. 14; 6:30 p.m., Feb. 22. **SR**

15 Black History Month: Musical Memories See article on page 8. Register for #57699. 1-2:30 p.m. **SR**

16 Wine & Improv Learn improv from a theater professional over a glass of wine. Tickets: \$35 individual; \$60 per couple. Ages 21 and older. 7 p.m. **GM**

17 Camps Registration Opens Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/guide to sign up.

17 Kids Night Out at TCRC Play in the gym, watch a movie, play video games, sing karaoke, make a craft. Pizza dinner included. Preregistration required, course #57883. 7-9 p.m. **TC**

18-20 Tax-free weekend for Energy Star purchases. See article on page 5.

19 Glenview Mansion Art Gallery Annual Student Art Show Opening Reception See article on page 6. 1:30-3:30 p.m. **GM**

19 "The Tamburitzans Live!" See article on page 6. 2 and 8 p.m. **FSF**

20 Presidents Day City Hall and some city facilities closed. See article on page 1.

22 Wild About Art Dress for a mess! Register for #57922. Ages 2-5 years. 10-10:45 a.m. **CC**

23 Deadline for Environmental Excellence Awards nominations. See article on page 5.

23 Nature Tots: Bears Naturalists delve into nature topics. Register for #57997. 10-11:30 a.m. **CC**

23 Ensuring Self-Determination at the End of Life Focuses on personal value systems and communicating wishes to your family. Seniors only. 1-3 p.m. **SR**

23-26 Victorian Lyric Opera Company presents "La

Perichole" See article on page 6. Feb. 23-25 and March 3-4 at 8 p.m. Feb. 26 and March 5 at 2 p.m. **FSF**

24 Black History Month: Councilwomen Virginia Onley Rockville's first African-American councilwoman, shares her journey. See article on page 8. Register for #57700. 10:30-11:30 a.m. **SR**

24 Black History Movie Night See article on page 8. 7 p.m. **TC**

24 Emancipation to Integration: 150 years of Advance-

ment in Educational Equality See article on page 2. 7 p.m. Rockville Memorial Library, 21 Maryland Ave. **SR**

26 Outdoor Science Club: Winter Cool cold-weather experiments Ages 6-8 years. Register for #58003. 1:30-3 p.m. **CC**

27 Black History Month: African-American Women A presentation on Harriet Tubman and Rosa Parks. See article on page 8. 10:15-11:15 a.m. at the Senior Center (#57701); 1-2 p.m. at Lincoln Park (#58034). **SR LP**

Critters and Coffee

Free

Friday, Feb. 10 • 10:15 a.m.

Enjoy coffee, a wildlife discussion and tour with staff at the Croydon Creek Nature Center. Visit this wonderful facility and learn about what's living in our own backyards. Meet at Croydon Creek, 852 Avery Road, for coffee and conversation. Course #57849.

City of Rockville
Get Into It

Rockville Senior Center
1150 Carnation Drive, Rockville, MD 20850
240-314-8800 • www.rockvillemd.gov/seniorcenter

Tiny Tot Valentine's Day Party

Tuesday, Feb. 14, 10 a.m. to noon

Enjoy a morning of Valentine's Day fun. Make a Valentine, play games, visit with friends. Fee is \$2 per child and all adults attending must purchase a day pass or have a TFCC center membership. Wear red in celebration of Valentine's Day.

Course #58054 \$6 R/\$8 NR Adult
Course #58055 \$2 Child

City of Rockville
Get Into It

Thomas Farm Community Center
700 Falls Grove Drive, Rockville, MD 20850
240-314-8840 • www.rockvillemd.gov/thomasfarm

FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE EVENT LISTINGS, VISIT WWW.ROCKVILLEMD.GOV

Mayor for a Day

continued from pg. 3...

sider the contest to be a wonderful exercise in government studies and encourage fourth graders attending schools in Rockville to participate.

Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton welcomes the opportunity to speak with students about the essay contest, municipal government and what it is like to be mayor of Rockville. Teachers or school administrators may email cityclerk@rockvillemd.gov to arrange for the mayor to visit their school, though a mayoral visit is not required for students to participate.

In addition to the winners chosen by MML and MMA, the mayor will select a student attending school in Rockville to serve as the city's Mayor for a Day in May.

Learn more by visiting www.md.municipal.org and selecting "Mayor's Essay Contest" under "Programs and Services," or call the City Clerk/Director of Council Operation's office at 240-314-8280. ❖

Floodplain Ordinance Changes

continued from pg. 3...

Agency (FEMA) requirement that property owners in the floodplain obtain a permit. The permit will allow the city to set conditions on new construction, review and approve construction plans, inspect construction and obtain FEMA-required documentation. The changes also eliminate previously allowed exemptions for constructing new public facilities and minor projects in the floodplain, such as utilities, fences and play or seating equipment. These will now require permits.

City staff is sending letters to owners of properties within the floodplain to explain the new permitting requirements. Staff will guide property owners in making safer choices about placement and design of improvements to minimize potential flood damage. Staff will also contact owners of properties where improvements such as play equipment, picnic tables, sheds and fences are encroaching into the floodplain.

City of Rockville Maryland
Get Into It

Floodplain Management

New Updates Proposed to the Floodplain Management Ordinance

Changes to the City's floodplain management requirements and procedures are proposed to comply with Federal and State regulations. The City worked with Maryland Department of Environment (MDE) and FEMA for the past year to draft updates to the floodplain ordinance to maintain participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Two significant changes to the City's current regulations are required:

- Establish a new Floodplain Permit process, with more rigorous tracking and record-keeping requirements for permitted floodplain disturbance.
- Eliminate previously allowed exemptions from floodplain regulation for public facilities and projects, utilities, fences and play/seating equipment.

Proposed Ordinance Schedule

Ordinance Introduction	October 17, 2016
Proposed ordinance	
Background materials	
Introduction presentation	

CONTACT US

Live Sookup
Principal Environmental Engineer
Email: live@rockvillemd.gov
Phone: 240-314-8874
111 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, MD 20850

QUICK LINKS

- FEMA's FAQs for Homeowners
- Understanding Flood Maps and Risks
- FEMA's FAQs - Myths About Flood Insurance
- FEMA Factsheet - Flood Risks
- Explanation and Preparation
- FEMA Factsheet - How Flood Insurance Works
- FEMA Factsheet - Preliminary Risk Flood Insurance Policies for Homeowners and Renters

VIEW ALL

FAQs

- Why does the City regulate

Owners will be informed of the risks of flood damage to their property, and to properties downstream if unanchored improvements are washed away, and steps to take to manage those risks.

Property owners can visit www.rockvillemd.gov/floodplain to learn more about the ordinance and the National Flood Insurance Program, and to find flood preparation and safety tips and an interactive map that can help assess flood risks. ❖

rockvillemd.gov/floodplain to learn more about the ordinance and the National Flood Insurance Program, and to find flood preparation and safety tips and an interactive map that can help assess flood risks. ❖

Spring Sports — Now Registering

Youth baseball, T-ball and tennis, adult softball and volleyball and soccer are just a few of the sports all ages can take part in this spring with the City of Rockville. Registration for spring sports leagues for youth and adults is currently open. Kids can take part in:

- T-ball (ages 4-6).
- Co-rec (boys and girls) coach-pitch baseball (ages 7-9).
- Co-rec soccer (pre-K through grade 3).
- Co-rec track and field (ages 6-14).

Each league has one practice per week and a game or meet once a week. T-ball and coach-pitch baseball play games on Saturdays. Soccer games are on Sundays. Track and field meets are on Wednesdays.

Register for soccer, T-ball and coach-pitch baseball by March 1 to save \$10. The final registration deadline is Wednesday, March 8. Register for track and field by March 3 and save \$10, with a final deadline of Friday, March 10. Practices for each youth league begins at the end of March with games or meets beginning in mid-April.

Adults can take part in men's softball or basketball, co-rec reverse softball (men bat in a reverse stance), co-rec volleyball or co-rec soccer sevens. Also, new this year, is co-rec sand volleyball.

Registration deadlines for adult league players and teams are in late March and early April.

Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/recreation/sports for league details and registration information, or call 240-314-8620.

Summer Programs for Kids: Camps and Playgrounds CAMPS...

Registration opened Jan. 17 for more than 60 camps available throughout Rockville. They include the traditional all-day, all-summer break Summer Blast program, which runs from 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m. each day and is hosted at four sites throughout the city, as well as specialty camps that explore robotics, the arts, athletics, sports, science, dancing, nature, theater, parkour and many other experiences for kids age 3-16. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/camps.



PLAYGROUNDS... Children age 6-12 experience a summer full of excitement and fun at programs in neighborhoods throughout Rockville. Stay active by taking part in sports, completing fitness challenges and playing a variety of playground games. There's also plenty of time to create crafts, enjoy water activities and connect with friends. Weekly themes enhance the fun. Optional Playground Extras, including Soccer Aces, swimming and field trips to Zava Zone and Monster Mini Golf, are available for additional fees. Extended hours are offered at three sites. The program is 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, June 26-Aug. 3. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/summerplaygrounds.

Have a Golden Voice?

Ever been told you have a voice for radio? Have you ever thought it might be fun to try your mellifluous tones at voiceover work?

Rockville has a session that can get you started: "Getting Paid to Talk." Take the course to explore the numerous aspects of voiceover work for television, film, radio, books on tape, documentaries and the Internet. Learn how to prepare the all-important demo and record a commercial script under direction from a producer. Learn what the pros look for, how to prepare and where to find work in your area.

"Getting Paid to Talk" will be held 6:30-9 p.m. in the Senior Center's Azalea Room. Register at rockenroll.rockvillemd.gov by entering course #57105. The cost is \$25 for residents, \$35 for nonresidents.



Ah, Valentine's Day!

Rockville's in the mood for love. Feb. 14 is the time for chocolate hearts and roses, and if you're trying to get in the mood, Rockville has an event or four at the city's community centers to help you out.

Tiny Tot Valentine's Day Party

Thomas Farm Community Center, at 700 Falls Grove Drive, has the morning of Tuesday, Feb. 14 devoted to Valentine's Day fun for kids, playing games and visiting friends. It's the perfect opportunity to make a Valentine, and the center is encouraging you to wear red to celebrate the day. The fee is \$2 per child. Adults who want to tag along need to buy a day pass (\$6 for residents, \$8 for nonresidents) if they're not a center member. Register at rockenroll.rockvillemd.gov with course #58504 for adults and #58055 for kids. The event runs 10 a.m.-noon.

Valentine's Day Chocolate Extravaganza

What's Valentine's without a chance to eat chocolate? Once again, Thomas Farm comes through, with a Tuesday, Feb. 10 showing of the ultimate candy-related film of all time, "Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory" on the big screen from 7:15-9 p.m., a chocolate fountain with treats for dipping, drinks, and a chocolate bar. All the family can relive the movie classic for just \$4 per person at the door. (And remember, "We are the music makers, and

we are the dreamers of the dream.")

Annual Heart-to-Heart Family Valentine's Dance

Ah, music makers — that reminds us. Perhaps a DJ and dancing are more your thing if you've hit the chocolate to excess and want to groove off a few calories. Electric slide over to Twinbrook Community and Recreation Center from 7-9 p.m., Feb. 10 with your family. Dance. Make Valentine's crafts. Spend time with your nearest and dearest. Refreshments will be on sale by Twinbrook Elementary School, and all this fun is just \$3 at the door. The center is located at 12920 Twinbrook Parkway.

For the Love of Sports — Adult and Child

If you've really gone to town on the chocolate (we did mention the chocolate fountain at Thomas Farm, right?) a little dancing may not cut it. Grab your favorite jersey or team shirt. Lincoln Park Community Center has an afternoon of fun sports and games planned for 2-4 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 12 — soccer, dodgeball and basketball included. Wear comfortable clothes and shoes. They'll provide pizza and refreshments. The fee — \$18 for residents, \$20 for nonresidents — is for one adult and one child. Register at rockenroll.rockvillemd.gov with course #57983. You can find the Lincoln Park center at 357 Frederick Ave. ❖

Rockville Offers Opportunities to Celebrate Black History in February

Following a proclamation by the Mayor and Council at their Monday, Jan. 23 meeting, Rockville will celebrate Black History Month with special presentations throughout February.

"Black History Month is a time for all Americans to remember the stories and teachings of those who helped build our nation, took a stance against prejudice to build lives of dignity and opportunity, and advanced the cause of civil rights," the proclamation states.

For events with course numbers, sign up at rockenroll.rockvillemd.gov and enter the course number to register.

Tuskegee Airmen

The Tuskegee Airmen overcame segregation and prejudice to become one of the most respected fighter groups serving in World War II. They included pilots, navigators, bombardiers, maintenance and support staff, instructors, and the personnel who made it possible for the planes to fly and the crew to succeed. Free for residents; \$11, nonresidents.

- Rockville Senior Center: 10:15-11:15 a.m., Monday, Feb. 13, course #57698.
- Lincoln Park Community Center: 1-2 p.m., Monday, Feb. 13, course #57926.

Musical Memories

African-American music covers a diverse range of music over many decades, encompassing ragtime, blues, boogie woogie, soul, rhythm and blues, spirituals and jazz. Musicians celebrated include Louis Armstrong, Count Basie, Duke Ellington, B.B. King, Ella Fitzgerald and many more. Free to residents and members; \$11 for nonmembers.

- Rockville Senior Center: 1-2:30 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 15, course #57699.

Councilmember Virginia Onley

The first African-American woman to serve on Rockville's Mayor and Council shares her

journey, from growing up in a small town to becoming a member of city government. Free to residents and members; \$11 for nonmembers.

- Rockville Senior Center: 10:30-11:30 a.m., Feb. 24, course #57700.

African-American Women

This presentation by Joan Adams, a history professor from Prince George's Community College, focuses on Harriet Tubman and Rosa Parks. Tubman ran an underground railroad; years later, Parks refused to go to the back of the bus. Both women were brave in the face of extreme danger. Threats to their lives were an everyday occurrence. Celebrate these exceptional ladies. Free for residents; \$11, nonresidents.

- Rockville Senior Center: 10:15-11:15 a.m., Monday, Feb. 27, course #57701.
- Lincoln Park Community Center: 1-2 p.m., Monday, Feb. 27, course #58034.

First Black History Movie Night – Free

A video of Wintley Phipps singing "Lift Every Voice and Sing (Negro National Anthem)" will precede a showing of the 1994 movie, "Crooklyn" (PG-13) at the Twinbrook Community Recreation Center gym. This free event includes popcorn, water and hot chocolate, with pizza available for purchase.

The movie begins promptly at 7 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 24 in Twinbrook's gym. Find the calendar listing at www.rockvillemd.gov to sign up for the event through an Eventbrite invitation. For special accommodations, contact Diane Charles at 240-314-8917.

African-American Heritage Tour Online

Tour sites related to Rockville's black heritage online or using a smartphone while on a walk (2 miles) and includes 18 locations) around the city. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/AfricanAmericanHistoryTour. ❖





Mayor
BRIDGET DONNELL NEWTON

Councilmembers
BERYL L. FEINBERG
VIRGINIA D. ONLEY
JULIE PALAKOVICH CARR
MARK PIERZCHALA

City Manager: Rob DiSpirito
Deputy City Manager: Jennifer Kimball
Director of Communication: Marylou Berg
Public Information Specialists: Cliff Cumber, Sean Sedam
Graphics and Printing: Sylvia England, Eric Ferrell, Nikita Jones, Leon Porter, Betsy Robbins, Lori Russler
Rockville II: Hagop Balekjian, Kathy Dantzler, Tony Plaia

Rockville Reports is the official publication of the City of Rockville, published at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850. It is delivered to all homes and businesses within Rockville's city limits. Any individuals with disabilities who would like to receive the information in this publication in another form may contact the Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator at 240-314-8100; TTY 240-314-8137. Have an idea for Rockville Reports? Call 240-314-8105 or email pia@rockvillemd.gov.



BACK IN THE DAY: Rollerblading? Criss-cross rope jumping? Step aerobics? Slimnastics? Low-fat recipes? If you're feeling a distinctly nostalgic vibe for the '90s, join the club. The front page of the October 1992 edition of "Rockville Reports" had a blowout article on Family Fitness Weekend featuring all these staple '90s crazes that now seem a little stale.